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A Message

Just Received

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THREE GROUPS

Condemned by the Board Yesterday.

Filthy Conditions Rarely Equalled in Chinatown--Ponds and Cesspools Exposed.

Shortly before noon yesterday the Board of Health, consisting of President Wood, F. M. Hatch, George W. Smith and Attorney-General Cooper, and accompanied by C. B. Ripley, A. G. M. Robertson, and a representative of the Advertiser, drove to the premises at the corner of Nuuanu and Kukui streets, in which a plague death had occurred during the night.

The buildings, which form an L, were yet incomplete, only the portion fronting on Nuuanu street being entirely under roof. The portion facing on Kukui street comprised the unfinished than two score Japanese have been residing for some time. In spite of the cautions which have been thrown out by the Board of Health with reference to the sanitary construction of buildings, the contractors have gone on steadily with the insanitary work, which, in connection with the open cesspools reeking with filth, surpasses most of the foul places in Chinatown. The Board first inspected the store-room in which the Japanese died. The room was filled with a nondescript class of merchandise, evidently hastily placed in boxes and carted to the place from Chinatown, or most likely, from Block 15. Sandwiched in between piles of merchandise toward the rear entrance was a pallet on which the patient had slept and passed away. No stronger evidence was required to connect the chain of infection.

Mr. R. D. Silliman was appraising the goods all morning, finishing the work shortly after noon. They found a tremendous lot of merchandise stored away there, very little of it marked fumigated. As a precaution, the appraisers wore rubber gloves to prevent infection.

Cesspools Most Foul.

In the rear of the buildings the Board found the most foul-smelling open-air cesspools which have yet come to light in the city inspection. They were comparatively new, probably having been dug in December. The rear veranda projected half way over them, and the other half was exposed to the open sky. Sulphuric acid had been poured into them with a liberal hand, yet the stench was sufficient to cause a hasty retreat by the party. Slime had already gathered on the surface, and one or two dead cats were observed in the midst of it.

The cesspools alone were enough to cause the Board to condemn the premises as insanitary and a cause of sickness, without the case of plague, which had already infected the buildings. The Board summarily passed a motion condemning, as insanitary, a cause of sickness and a source of filth, the premises from Nuuanu along Kukui to the fence on the Ewa side (the fence extending to a lane parallel with Kukui street), thence to Nuuanu street, thence to the place of beginning. A second motion, declaring the premises infected with plague, was also passed, and the place was ordered burned as soon as the Fire Department could spare time to take it in hand.

Further Condemnations.

Aala was next visited by the Board, and the shacks along Aala lane extending to the auwai on the mauka extremity were condemned and ordered destroyed by fire. The ponds filled with stagnant water which extended from the rear of a building facing on King street were also condemned as a nuisance, a source of filth and a cause of sickness, and notice will be sent to the owners or lessees to have them filled up immediately, after being drained. These ponds were condemned in the cholera time for the same cause, but nothing was ever done toward filling them up.

This matter accomplished the Board's attention was drawn to the tumble-down buildings which extended over a slimy pond. The rear portions were built upon small piles, and the different buildings were connected by board walks, all directly over the water. Closets and sinks are so constructed that filth of every variety drops directly into the water, which has no outlet to the sea. The Chinese theatre at Aala road projects back to the ponds, and a bakery, a livery stable and wash-house, also built over the slime, combined to make conditions worse.

Filthy conditions were observed on every hand, and the Board condemned the entire group of buildings bounded by King street, Aala lane, thence by a line which would go through the center of Beretania street if extended to this point, to Aala road, and thence back to King street. This condemnation included the Chinese theatre which faces toward the river. As soon as practicable, both places will be turned over to the Fire Department. The tenants of the portion included in the latter condemnation, will not be sent to quarantine as no death by plague has occurred there, but they will be at liberty to seek homes elsewhere.

Speaking about the Nuuanu and Kukui streets premises, President Wood said to the Board: "We want this place wiped out at once. It is an abomination, and the quicker such places are swept away by fire the better it will be for the community. By doing so, it may have the effect of preventing other buildings of like construction being erected, and so menacing public health."

The condemned buildings at the corner of Kukui and Nuuanu streets were burned by the Fire Department short-

ly after 4 o'clock yesterday. In accordance with the summary order given by the Board at noon. The property belongs to the Bishop Estate.

THE CHINESE SIDE.

A Few Remarks on the Burning of the Infected District.

Editor Advertiser: I have fully realized that the past month has been no time for stirring up strife and contention, but now that Chinatown has been destroyed by fire, I ask you to publish this communication, which not only voices my personal sentiments, but the majority of the Chinese who have been affected. I also fully appreciate the fact that a newspaper is a powerful agent in moulding public opinion, and as the local papers have almost unanimously blamed the Chinese for the so-called plague, I believe it is no more than right that all the facts come to light.

It is claimed that the plague has been introduced into Honolulu by the shipping of Oriental freight. Let us assume for the sake of argument that this fact is true. I am reliably informed that attention was called to the Board of Health last June that certain Oriental ports were infected with plague, and the Board then and there adopted a resolution that all Oriental freight should henceforth be thoroughly fumigated before its delivery to consignees in Honolulu, and the former president of the Board was detailed to carry the regulation into effect. I am also reliably informed that very little, if any, Oriental freight has been so fumigated. Now, if this is true, why place the blame upon the Chinese? A great deal more might be said upon this matter, and will be said, if the persons who have neglected their duty in this respect desire to discuss it.

In regard to Saturday's cruelty, I should like to state for the benefit of those who have heard but one side of this question, that the Consul for the Chinese has written communications to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and these letters have been referred to the Board of Health, protesting against the wholesale burning of blocks in Chinatown, and asking that some of the wooden buildings be torn down, and then burned, thereby lessening the danger of destroying buildings that were never intended to be burned. This protest and suggestion was never heeded by the Board of Health.

Again, would it not have been using simply ordinary diligence in first removing the people from the infected districts and preparing suitable quarters for them, before burning their homes, personal effects, and many private papers that money can never repay?

However, what is done cannot be undone, and notwithstanding the cruel treatment suffered by some of the Chinese on Saturday, they appreciate the kindly intention and expression of sympathy from a great many of the residents of Honolulu, and the writer, who is one of those unfortunate, has lost absolutely everything. As I stated at the beginning of this communication, I believe I voice the sentiment of a majority of the Chinese so affected, and that a speedy and just settlement be made.

Before bringing this to a close I want to express my thanks and admiration for the noble work of our Consul and Vice Consul in behalf of the Chinese on Saturday.

M. C. AMANA,

Chairman of Chinese Citizens' Committee.
Honolulu, January 20, 1900.

Notification.

In reply to the many enquiries as to time of issue of the Hawaiian Annual for 1900, the publisher states that it is hoped to appear shortly after New Years.

Departments or Societies not yet having reported their changes for the REGISTER and DIRECTORY feature of the work for the coming year will please do so at once.

ADVERTISERS desiring space will please report on same within this week. Nothing can be received later.

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